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1. The Chinese Communists have about 20,000 fifth columnists in Hong Kong ready to make trouble if ordered to by the Communist high command. An immediate coup or military invasion is not in view, but the Communists are making all preparations in the event orders to take action are received on short notice. These fifth columnists were armed with pistols, hand grenades, and bombs by 2 January.
2. The underground leader of these fifth columnists is said to be willing to reveal the entire project for a suitable compensation and safe evacuation from Hong Kong.
3. LAI Chuan-chu (賴傳珠), political commissar of the 4th Field Army and member of the Central and South China and Kwangtung Governments, arrived in Hong Kong before Christmas. The purpose of his visit is to instruct underground agents working for the Communists in Hong Kong and to purchase strategic goods.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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